

7 May 1979

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

Staff Meeting Minutes of 7 May 1979

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The Director was attending a Cabinet meeting; Mr. Carlucci chaired the meeting. [ ]

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[ ] (for Taylor) reported that material has been forwarded to Mr. Carlucci for the information handling Executive Committee meeting that is to be held this afternoon, and that the 1981 program proposal package will be ready today. [ ]

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[ ] reported that there would be a HAC hearing during the first week of June on the CIA 1980 program/budget, and that we should be prepared for two special interest items: [ ]

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Lapham summarized for Mr. Carlucci what had transpired over the past couple of weeks re SCC meetings on legislative charters and on what items are coming up--mainly, intelligence collection against U.S. persons. He referred to last week's New York Times lead editorial on this subject and other recent newspaper articles dealing with the same subject. [ ]

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Mr. Carlucci expressed his view that our situation in Iran seems to be cautiously optimistic; he asked Dirks if our Charge in Iran has been provided effective talking points pursuant to the Director's memo on same, to be used in discussions [ ] He was advised that this has been forwarded. [ ]

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[REDACTED]

Mr. Carlucci noted, however, that wherever he went the dominant theme presented by his hosts centered on the question of the U.S. Government's ability to keep a secret. They expressed their reluctance to share information which they believe would likely be revealed under FOIA or from Congressional oversight. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] Mr. Carlucci found that [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] are particularly concerned with our Freedom of Information and Privacy Acts. They feel strongly that unless the West can find a way to protect sources, intelligence exchanges will erode further. Mr. Carlucci noted that they and others are not ready to believe that the Congress will be appropriately responsive to this problem. [REDACTED]

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Bowie suggested that Mr. Carlucci's findings during his trip be presented to Congressional Oversight committees. Mr. Carlucci said that he doubts the effectiveness of such a move unless we are first able to get an Administration-established position on this whole matter. On this point, Lapham commented on problems within the Administration. He noted particularly that the Attorney General's responsiveness to our repeated requests for support--a legislative initiative for a new criminal statute respecting unauthorized disclosure--has been lacking. Justice seems to be ignoring our needs under the guise of viewing them in a larger context re any new laws. Lapham said that his successor will have to pick up the effort on discussion with appropriate principals re criminal, civilian, and Administration elements on, e.g., Agee's continued use of a U.S. passport. McMahon insisted that from the beginning these parties have not and are not likely to respond properly to the situation unless we go to the NSC and the President. Mr. Carlucci asked if we should be getting together with OMB on this and all related issues in order to gain the support of the Administration. He asked that Lapham have someone in OGC pick up on this. Lapham warned of related problems in pushing for legislation, e.g., in identity-type proposals, having to ask one of our cover officers to testify in public re Agee. (Action: OGC) [REDACTED]

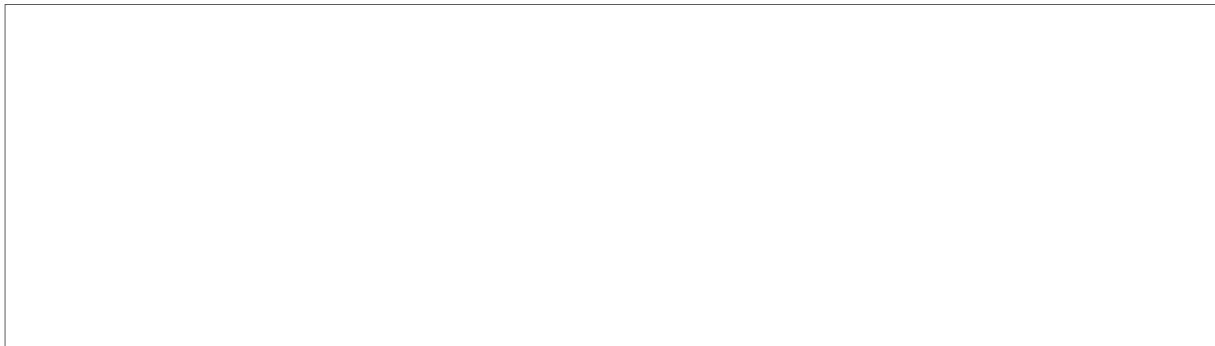
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Mr. Carlucci said he was glad to hear that significant gains had been made recently with the State Department regarding

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